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## **Working together with you: Educate federally funded medical beneficiaries on citizenship requirements**

*The following is a column by Dr. Marcia Nielsen, Interim Executive Director of Kansas Health Policy Authority:*

Two months ago, the federal government implemented guidelines requiring all federally funded medical benefits applicants and current beneficiaries to provide documentation of citizenship and identification.

Since July, we have seen a significant impact at the Kansas Family Medical Eligibility Clearinghouse. It has increased the workload and amount of time it takes for eligibility to be determined.

If the problem continues, it could threaten the accessibility of health care coverage for Kansans.

To assist our staff, I urge you to prepare beneficiaries for this new requirement prior to application or review. By being prepared, it can reduce the amount of time it takes for an eligibility determination to be finalized and help Kansans get the care they need sooner.

We are making every effort to allow beneficiaries an appropriate amount of time to supply supporting documentation.

Inform beneficiaries of these new guidelines. A U.S. passport, Certificate of Naturalization or Certificate of U.S. Citizenship can verify both citizenship and identity.

If an individual does not have those documents, it is required to provide documentation of citizenship and identity. Citizenship can be proved through a birth certificate or birth record, adoption record or military record. Identity documents include a driver's license; federal, state or local ID; military ID; or a Native American Tribal Document. If a child is under 16 years of age, school ID, school records, licensed or registered daycare documents, or medical records can verify identity.

I urge everyone to educate beneficiaries. Working together on this new federal requirement is essential as we move forward.

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